

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 FLOREN 00487 181332Z

41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /050 W
----- 083842

R 181415Z DEC 75

FM AMCONSUL FLORENCE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1252

AMCONSUL NAPLES

UNCLAS FLORENCE 0487

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT IT

SUBJECT: NEW BISHOP OF RAVENNA ASSUMES OFFICE

1. MONS. ERSILIO TONINI, FORMERLY BISHOP OF MACERATA (PUGLIA), ASSUMED HIS NEW DUTIES THIS WEEK AS ARCHBISHOP OF RAVENNA IN SUCCESSION TO MONS. BALDASSARI WHO HAS BEEN NOTABLE IN THE PAST FOR HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH CATHOLIC DISSENT AND LEFT WING CAUSES. MONS. BALDASSARI RESIGNED HIS OFFICE AT 69 YEARS OF AGE FOR 'HEALTH REASONS'.

2. MONS. TONINI, 61 YEARS OF AGE, SON OF PEASANTS FROM PIACENZA (EMILIA-ROMAGNA) GAINED EARLY FAVOR WITH THE COMMUNISTS WHEN AFTER BEING RAISED TO BISHOP OF MACERATA IN 1969, HE CEDED CHURCH LANDS TO LOCAL FARMERS. LATER, THEIR JUDGEMENT BECAME HARSHER WHEN THE BISHOP DEVOTED TIME AND ENERGY TO THE CHURCH-SPONSORED CIVIC COMMITTEES OF THE DIOCESE AND DISCIPLINED ONE OF HIS CLERICS WHO HAD JOINED 'CHRISTIANS FOR SOCIALISM'.

3. AS SUCCESSOR TO THE 'RED ARCHBISHOP', MONS. TONINI IS ALREADY BEING CHARACTERIZED AS THE VATICAN AGENT TO RE-ESTABLISH PRE-VATICAN 11 ATTITUDES IN THE RAVENNA DIOCESE. THE NEW ARCHBISHOP REFUSES TO ACCEPT ANY SUCH CHARACTERIZATION. HE STATED 'I COME AS A BROTHER--A PASTOR MUST SHOW CHARITY, UNDERSTANDING AND HUMILITY.'

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 FLOREN 00487 181332Z

4. COMMENT: THE EXIT OF MONS. BALDASSARI FROM HIS DIOCESE LESSENS THE AUTHORITY OF ONE OF THE LEADING FIGURES LENDING

RESPECTABILITY TO THE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLICS WITH MARXISTS
AND MARXIST SPONSORED CAUSES. GORDON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975FLOREN00487
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750440-0337
From: FLORENCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751229/aaaaazch.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 NOV 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <13 JAN 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW BISHOP OF RAVENNA ASSUMES OFFICE
TAGS: PINT, IT, (TONINI, ERSILIO)
To: ROME
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006